Remarks

Claims 1-22 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 9, 16, and 17 are amended. Claims 21 and 22 are new. No new matter is included. In view of following comments, allowance of all the claims pending in the application is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 5-7, 9, 13 and 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Introducing Microsoft Windows 95, 1995, Microsoft Corporation, page 27 (herein after "Microsoft") in view of Microsoft Windows 95 application "screenshots", 1995, Microsoft Corporation, pages 1-3 (herein after "Windows 95"). Claims 2-4, 8, 10-12, 14, and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over "Microsoft" in view of "Windows 95", as applied to claim 1, 5-7, 9, 13, and 15-17 above, in further view Greyson et al. (USPN 5,666,552 – issued on 09/1997). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections as follows.

Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's broad interpretation of the Microsoft reference, which illustrates a window having several *files* within a folder. The Examiner appears to analogize the folder to electronic documents and the files within the folder to the target information regions. In an effort solely to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicant has amended claims 1, 9, 16, and 17 to further clarify that the at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions within an electronic document are generated by a <u>word-processing application</u>. In contrast, the folders of Microsoft are generated by the Microsoft Windows 95 operating system application.

As amended, independent claims 1, 9, 16, and 17 recite essentially the features of processing at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions within an electronic document generated by a word-processing application, selecting a continuous target information region within the electronic document and accepting input to deselect at least one portion of the continuous target information region, among other things.

Microsoft illustrates a window within the Windows 95 operating system application that includes files within a "Writings" folder, wherein one or more files can be *individually* selected (see page 27). Microsoft is deficient because it fails to disclose at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions within an electronic document generated by a word-processing application. "Windows 95" does not make up for this deficiency. "Windows 95" illustrates a window within a Windows operating system application that includes files within a "Test folder" folder, wherein one or more files can be *individually* selected and deselected (see pages 2-3). "Microsoft" and "Windows 95" are deficient, both alone and in combination, because neither discloses at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions within an electronic document generated by a word-processing application. Thus, independent claims 1, 9, 16, and 17 are patentable over "Microsoft" and "Windows 95".

Dependent claims 5-7, 13, and 15 depend from and add additional features to one of independent claims 1 and 9. Thus, for at least the reasons set forth above, these claims are patentable over "Microsoft" and "Windows 95".

Dependent claims 2-4, 8, 10-12, and 18-20 depend from and add additional features to one of independent claims 1, 9, 16, and 17. The Examiner relies on Greyson to overcome the deficiencies of "Microsoft" and "Windows 95" as related to these claims. However, neither "Microsoft", "Windows 95", nor Greyson alone or in combination with one another teach or suggest at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions within an electronic document generated by a word-processing application, selecting a continuous target information region within the electronic document, and accepting input to deselect at least one portion of the continuous target information region. Furthermore, "Microsoft" and "Windows 95" describe *individually selecting files* within a Windows operating system application, while Greyson discloses selecting text in a document of a word processing application. There is no motivation to combine these references. Thus claims 2-4, 8, 10-12, and 18-20 are patentable over "Microsoft", "Windows 95", and Greyson.

Regarding new claim 21, none of the applied references alone or in combination with one another disclose selecting a target information region in an electronic
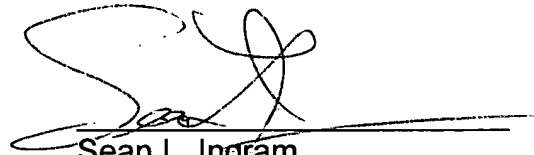
document of a graphics based application and deselecting a portion of this continuous target information region. Regarding new claim 22, neither "Microsoft", "Windows 95", nor Greyson alone or in combination with each other disclose selecting a target information region in a text-based electronic document and deselecting a portion of this continuous target information region.

A full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Dated: April 8, 2004   Respectfully submitted,

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